

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;

sensing that the syringe is mounted on the injector;

in response to sensing the syringe, automatically advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe and to advance the plunger to the distal end thereof;

retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe; and advancing the piston to prime the syringe and a tube connected to the syringe.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step or act of automatically advancing the plunger operates to expel air from the syringe.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step or act of retracting the plunger operates to fill the syringe with an amount of fluid.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of advancing the piston to expel fluid from the syringe.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of retracting the piston after the syringe is removed from the injector.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the

method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;  
sensing that the syringe is mounted on the injector;  
automatically determining based on the sensing whether the syringe is an empty syringe, a preloaded syringe or a prefilled syringe;  
advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe;  
automatically advancing the piston of the injector to advance the plunger to the distal end of the syringe if the syringe is an empty syringe;  
automatically retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe if the syringe is an empty syringe; and  
advancing the piston to prime the fluid path for the injection procedure.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the steps or acts of advancing and retracting are conducted automatically by the injector.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;  
advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe and to advance the plunger to the distal end thereof;  
retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe; and  
advancing the piston to prime the syringe and a tube connected to the syringe,  
wherein the priming is based on a fluid volume of the tube.

12. – 13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the priming is based on a predetermined amount.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, further including advancing the piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further including advancing the piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further including advancing the piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.